



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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MAY 7, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BANK ROBBER SENTENCED FOR STEALING FROM GLADSTONE, INDEPENDENCE BANKS WITH ‘UNLUCKY LOTTERY TICKET’

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a bank robber was sentenced in federal court today for robbing two banks in the Kansas City area.

John D. Bratton, 34, who has no permanent address, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to 12 years and seven months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 15, 2003, **Bratton** pleaded guilty to stealing \$8,000 from banks in Gladstone, Mo., and Independence, Mo.

Bratton admitted that he took, by threat of violence, \$6,950 from a bank teller at the U.S. Bank, located at 6098 N.E. Antioch Road in Gladstone, on July 9, 2003. **Bratton** also admitted that he took, by threat of violence, \$1,240 from a bank teller at the Union Bank, located at 4340 S. Noland Road in Independence, on July 22, 2003.

Bratton was arrested the day after the Union Bank robbery, Graves said. In that robbery, **Bratton** handed the teller a note, which appeared to be written on the back of a lottery ticket. According to Graves, the note stated, “I’ve got a gun! 20’s and 50’s.” After receiving the money, **Bratton** fled the bank on foot. The bank’s manager saw **Bratton** get into a blue Ford Ranger pickup truck parked at a nearby parking lot.

“That proved to be an unlucky lottery ticket,” Graves said. “Law enforcement officers reviewed surveillance tapes of the parking lot and were able to get the license plate off **Bratton’s** vehicle.”

On July 23, 2003, a law enforcement officer observed the vehicle parked at a hotel located on East 42nd Terrace. At that time, **Bratton** was observed leaving a hotel room and was placed under arrest, Graves said.

Bratton was originally charged with robbing one bank in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on July 23, 2003. The criminal complaint was later replaced by the indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 19, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney K. Michael Warner. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow